

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 DLOS-04 OES-03 EB-07 SP-02 NSC-05

L-03 INR-07 CIAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 OFA-01 INRE-00

EUR-12 /070 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, MX, US

SUBJECT: GOM EXPLANATION OF ITS UNILATERAL MOVE TOWARDS
200-MILE ZONE

REF: MEXICO 6987

1. IN MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AFTERNOON
OF AUGUST 7, MEXICAN AMBASSADOR DE OLLOQUI, ON INSTRUCTIONS
OF FONSEC RABASA, INFORMED US OF MEXICAN POSITION ON 200
MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA, MAKING POINTS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO
THOSE MADE TO CHARGE BRANDIN BY GONZALEZ GALVEZ (REFTEL).
DE OLLOQUI NOTED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF 200 MILE PATRIMON-
IAL SEA WAS "POLITICAL DECISION" BASED ON CONCERN ABOUT
GULF OF CALIFORNIA. HE ASSURED US THAT 200 MILE AREA
WOULD BE "ECONOMIC ZONE," NOT "TERRITORIAL SEA" AND WOULD
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HAVE NO EFFECT ON FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION, OVERFLIGHT, ETC.

DE OLLOQUI ALSO STATED GOM HOPED FOR CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH USG ON LOS MATTERS AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT MEXICAN 200 MILE ACTION SHOULD NOT HINDER THIS DIALOGUE.

2. DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT AT MEXICAN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT IT INTENDED TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION ON 200 MILE ZONE. HE NOTED THAT

WE HAD BEEN DISCUSSING LOS MATTERS WITH MEXICO AND WOULD HAVE HOPED FOR ADVANCE CONSULTATION. INGERSOLL NOTED THAT MEXICAN ACTION WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECT ON POSSIBILITIES OF REACHING AGREEMENT AT MARCH 1976 LOS CONFERENCE, AS UNILATERAL ACTIONS IN ADVANCE OF CONFERENCE WOULD MAKE BARGAINING MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. INGERSOLL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT MEXICO, IF IT WAS ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO UNILATERAL ACTION, WOULD TAKE SUCH ACTION IN A WAY THAT WOULD NOT RPT NOT PUT 200 MILE PATRIMONIAL SEA INTO EFFECT UNTIL SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE, PERHAPS A YEAR OR MORE FROM NOW. THIS WOULD PERMIT MORE ROOM FOR BARGAINING AND POSSIBLE AGREEMENTS AT UPCOMING LOS DISCUSSIONS.

3. DE OLLOQUI SAID HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING TIMING OF EFFECTIVE DATE OF PATRIMONIAL SEA AND THUS COULD NOT ADDRESS QUESTION. HE STATED HE WOULD INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT OF OUR OPPOSITION AND REQUEST FOR DELAY OF EFFECTIVE DATE.

4. FYI IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT EVEN THE 200-MILE FISH-ERIES BILL WHICH WAS VOTED OUT OF THE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE CONTAINS AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF JULY 1, 1976. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU YESTERDAY OPPOSED UNILATERAL ACTION AND REAFFIRMED THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION TO FISHERIES PROBLEM THROUGH THE LOS CONFERENCE. FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE UK HAS APPROACHED US TO SAY THAT UK WOULD MAKE A STRONG DEMARCH TO MEXICO OPPOSING ITS UNILATERAL ACTION; WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY IDEAS OF HOW TO MAKE THE UK ACTION MOST EFFECTIVE. END FYI.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMB IS REQUESTED TO MAKE STRONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEMARCHE AT HIGHEST LEVEL OF FOREIGN SECRETARIAT STATING U.S. OPPOSITION TO UNILATERAL ACTION AND STRESSING OUR HOPE THAT, AT THE VERY LEAST, THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF MEXICO'S UNILATERAL ACTION CAN BE DELAYED UNTIL THE TERMINATION OF THE SCHEDULED LOS MEETINGS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, POLICIES, TERRITORIAL WATERS, ADJACENT SEAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE189192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: J.T.DREYFUSS:MRG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750276-0067
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750865/aaaacfmt.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 6987
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 SEP 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM EXPLANATION OF ITS UNILATERAL MOVE TOWARDS 200-MILE ZONE
TAGS: PLOS, PFOR, MX, US
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006